AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for processing an electronic document, ~~wherein the document includes a plurality of data fields and wherein the document is an electronic bill made accessible by a first party to a second party via a computer network,~~ comprising:

presenting, using a processor, first information regarding the document to ~~the second~~ a receiving party of the document, ~~wherein~~ the first information ~~includes the~~ comprising a first plurality of data fields included in the document ~~electronic bill~~ and a second plurality of data fields ~~proposed~~ supplied by ~~the first~~ an issuing party of the document according to a ~~predefinable~~ list;

receiving, from the ~~second~~ receiving party, second information including a first data field~~, wherein the first data field is a data field~~ selected from the second plurality of data fields ~~proposed by the first party according to the predefinable list~~;

receiving, from the ~~second~~ receiving party, third information including a second data field~~, wherein the second data field is a data field provided by the second party~~;

producing an accounting record from the document ~~electronic bill~~, based on the first ~~data field~~ and [[the]] second data fields [[field]]; and

sending the accounting record to the ~~second~~ receiving party.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~enabling said second~~ <u>entering information from the receiving</u> party ~~to enter information~~ into the second data field.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

<u>entering</u> ~~writing~~, by the [[first]] <u>issuing</u> party, financial information into the first data field and adding the first data field to the <u>document</u> ~~electronic bill~~.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, ~~further comprising:~~ <u>wherein entering the financial information comprises entering</u> ~~selecting the~~ financial information from a group consisting of financial objects, accounting objects, and bookkeeping objects.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~writing~~ <u>entering</u> a predefinable value into the first data field.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving, ~~from the second party,~~ the <u>third</u> information ~~including the second data field~~ comprises receiving one or more structured documents.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the structured document comprises <u>at least one of</u> data, tags, or program code, and the structured document is accessible by the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein at least one of the structured documents is a structured table, an XML-file, a HTML-file, or a java server page.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

enabling receiving, from the second receiving party, to characterize a characterization of the electronic bill document as accepted or refused.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of one claim 11, further comprising:

sending an accepted electronic bill document to at least one of the second receiving party or a payment service provider.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising:

creating an accounts record from [[an]] the accepted [[bill]] document and sending it to the second receiving party.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the first plurality of data fields are structured hierarchically hierarchical.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

assigning to the first plurality of data fields a property selected from a group consisting of displayable, non-displayable, optionally editable, and mandatory editable.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~naming~~ receiving a name description of the first plurality of data fields [[by]] from the [[first]] issuing party.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

checking an authorization of a user of the ~~second~~ receiving party.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

~~making~~ providing access to the document ~~accessible to~~ by the ~~second~~ receiving party by means of an intranet or the Internet.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

counting the document and providing an invoice for the processing of the document to the ~~second~~ receiving party.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

automatically starting a workflow for processing the ~~electronic bill~~ document if the ~~electronic bill~~ document is received from ~~a third~~ another party.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

sending an electronic notice, which includes a link to the document to an address contained in the workflow.

22. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein the workflow runs according to a predefinable sequence.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

> automatically checking an authorization of a participant of the workflow.

24. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method is for use with an enterprise accounting system.

25-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising instructions for processing an electronic document, ~~wherein the document includes a plurality of data fields and wherein the document is made accessible by a first party to a second party via a computer network,~~ said instructions comprising instructions for:

> presenting, using a processor, first information regarding the document to ~~the second~~ a receiving party of the document, ~~wherein~~ the first information ~~includes the~~ comprising a first plurality of data fields included in the ~~electronic bill~~ document and a second plurality of data fields ~~proposed~~ supplied by ~~the first~~ an issuing party according to a ~~predefinable~~ list;

> receiving, from the ~~second~~ receiving party, second information including a first data field~~, wherein the first data field is a data field~~ selected from the second plurality of data fields ~~proposed by the first party according to the predefinable list~~;

receiving, from the ~~second~~ receiving party, third information including a
second data field~~, wherein the second data field is a data field
provided by the second party~~;

producing an accounting record from the document ~~electronic bill~~, based
on the first ~~data field~~ and [[the]] second data [[field]] fields; and

sending the accounting record to the ~~second~~ receiving party.

29. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further
comprising instructions for:

~~enabling said second~~ entering information from the receiving party ~~to enter
information~~ into the second data field.

30-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further
comprising instructions for:

~~enabling said first party to write~~ writing financial information from the
issuing party into the first data field and [[add]] adding the first data
field to the document ~~electronic bill~~.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further
comprising instructions for:

~~selecting~~ writing financial information into the first data field, the financial
information being selected from a group consisting of financial
objects, accounting objects, and bookkeeping objects.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions for:

   writing a predefinable value into the first plurality of data fields.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the instructions for receiving, from the second party, the third information including the second data field comprises comprise instructions for providing one or more structured documents.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein the structured document comprises at least one of data, tags, or program code, and the structured document is accessible by the second receiving party.

37. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 35, wherein at least one of the structured documents is one of a structured table, an XML-file, a HTML-file, or a java server page.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions for:

   enabling receiving from the second receiving party to characterize a characterization of the electronic bill document as accepted or refused.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 38, further comprising instructions for:

sending an accepted ~~electronic bill~~ document to <u>at least</u> the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party or a payment service provider.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 39, further comprising instructions for:

creating an accounts record from an accepted [[bill]] <u>document</u> and sending it to the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions for:

hierarchically structuring the <u>first</u> plurality of data fields.

42. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions for:

assigning to the <u>first</u> plurality of data fields a property selected from a group consisting of displayable, non-displayable, optionally editable, and mandatory editable.

43. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium claim 28, further comprising instructions for:

~~naming~~ <u>receiving a name designation of</u> the <u>first</u> plurality of data fields <u>from the issuing party</u>.

44. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions for:

checking an authorization of a user of the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party.

45. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions for:

~~making~~ providing access to the document ~~accessible to~~ by the ~~second~~ receiving party by means of an intranet or the Internet.

46. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions for:

counting the document and providing an invoice for processing of the document to the ~~second~~ receiving party.

47. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of ~~one or more of~~ claim 28, further comprising instructions for:

automatically starting a workflow for processing ~~an electronic bill~~ the document if the ~~electronic bill~~ document is received from ~~a third~~ another party.

48. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 47, further comprising instructions for:

sending an electronic notice, which includes a link to the document, to an address contained in the workflow.

49. (Original) The computer readable medium claim 47, wherein the workflow runs according to a predefinable sequence.

50. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 47, further comprising instructions for:

> automatically checking an authorization of a participant of the workflow.

51. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 28, wherein the computer readable medium is for use with an enterprise accounting system.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Currently Amended) A system for processing an electronic document, ~~wherein the document includes a plurality of data fields and wherein the document is an electronic bill made accessible to a second party by a first party via a computer network,~~ the system comprising:

> a processor;
>
> a memory storing instructions that cause the processor to perform a method comprising:
>
>> presenting first information regarding the document to ~~the second~~ a receiving party of the document, ~~wherein~~ the first information ~~includes the~~ comprising a first plurality of data fields included in the ~~electronic bill~~ document and a second plurality of data fields ~~proposed~~ supplied by ~~the first~~ an issuing party of the document according to a ~~predefinable~~ list;
>>
>> receiving, from the ~~second~~ receiving party, second information including a first data field, ~~wherein the first data field is a data field~~ selected from the second

-11-

plurality of data fields ~~proposed by the first party according to the predefinable list~~;

receiving, from the ~~second~~ receiving party, third information including a second data field~~, wherein the second data field is a data field provided by the second party~~;

producing an accounting record from the document ~~electronic bill~~, based on the first ~~data field~~ and [[the]] second data fields [[field]]; and

sending the accounting record to the ~~second~~ receiving party.

54. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein a reference to a storage location of the document is presented to the ~~second~~ receiving party.

55. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the ~~second~~ receiving party uses a network connection to access the document.

56. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the document contains at least one of data, tags, or program code, so that the ~~second~~ receiving party, which is accessing the document, is provided with a list of one or more data fields for selection, editing, or addition.

57. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the document is one of a structured table, an XML file, an HTML file, or a Java Server Page.

58. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the ~~second~~ receiving party uses a web browser to access the document over a network or the Internet.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the document contains a reference to a storage location of the electronic document.

60. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the first data field is preallocated a default value.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the ~~second~~ receiving party is provided with means for inputting information into the first data field.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the document is an invoice.

63. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein the ~~second~~ receiving party is provided with means for acknowledging the invoice.

64. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, further comprising means for sending the document to the ~~second~~ receiving party.

65. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the electronic document or the information presented to the ~~second~~ receiving party is encrypted.

66. (Previously Presented) The system claim 53, wherein a workflow for processing the document is started.

67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the electronic document is automatically checked for presetable criteria.

68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the electronic document or the information presenting to the ~~second~~ receiving party is digitally signed.

69. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 62, further comprising forwarding the invoice to a payment service.

70. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 53, wherein the information presented to the ~~second~~ receiving party is invoice information and comprises at least one of information regarding addresses for the invoice issuer, the invoice receiver, [[,]] the payment service, payment, VAT, invoice items with respect to the underlying order, or commentary.

71. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 62, wherein the first data field is provided for inputting account assignment information.

72. (Currently Amended) A method for processing [[a]] an electronic document stored in a computer system of an issuing party of the document, ~~wherein the document is an electronic bill that includes a plurality of data fields and wherein the document is made accessible by a first party to a second party via a computer network,~~ the method comprising:

    presenting, using a processor, first information regarding the document to ~~the second~~ a receiving party of the document, ~~wherein~~ the first information ~~includes the~~ comprising a first plurality of data fields

-14-

included in the ~~electronic bill~~ document and a <u>second</u> plurality of
data fields ~~proposed~~ <u>supplied</u> by the [[first]] <u>issuing</u> party according
to a ~~predefinable~~ list;

receiving, from the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party, <u>second</u> information including a
first data field<u>,</u> ~~wherein the first data field is a data field~~ selected
from the <u>second</u> plurality of data fields ~~proposed by the first party~~
~~according to the predefinable list~~;

receiving, from the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party, <u>third</u> information including a
second data field<u>,</u> ~~wherein the second data field is a data field~~
~~provided by the second party~~;

producing an accounting record from the <u>document</u> ~~electronic bill~~, based
on the first ~~data field~~ and [[the]] second data <u>fields</u> [[field]]; and

sending the accounting record to the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party.

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 72, further comprising:

receiving a link to the information presented to the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72, further comprising:

accessing the document via a network.

75. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 72, wherein:

the electronic document comprises <u>at least one of</u> tags or program code,
for enabling the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party to select the first data field,
editing or adding to the electronic document.

76. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 72, wherein:

the electronic document is <u>one of</u> a HTML file, XML file, a structured table, or a Java Server Page.

77. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 72, wherein:

the information presented to the ~~second~~ <u>receiving</u> party contains a link to the electronic document.

78. (Original) The method of claim 72, wherein:

the electronic document is an invoice.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 72, further comprising:

entering financial information into the second data field.

80-82. (Cancelled)